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Vol. 20, No. 2/September 9, 1997

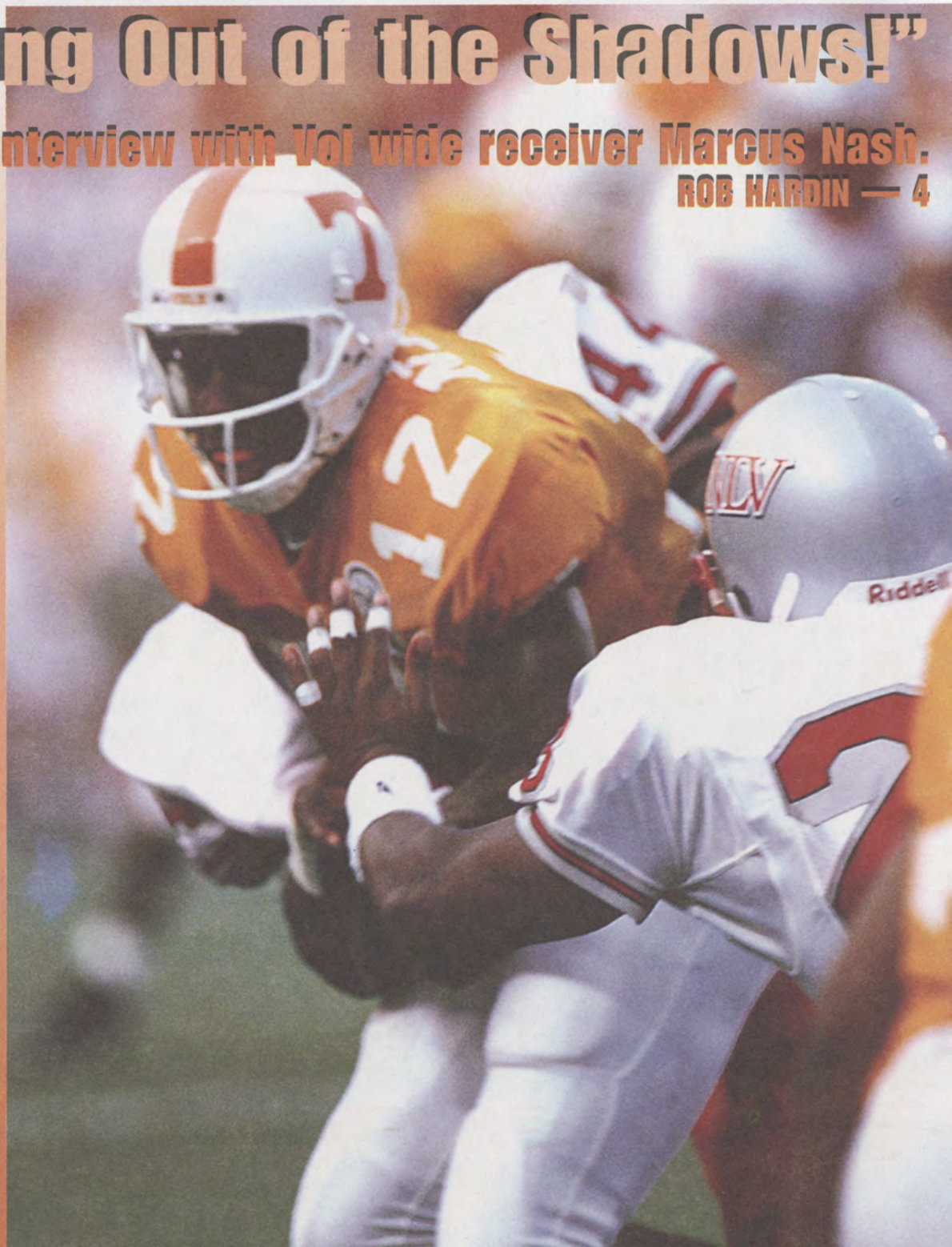
Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

"Stepping Out of the Shadows!"

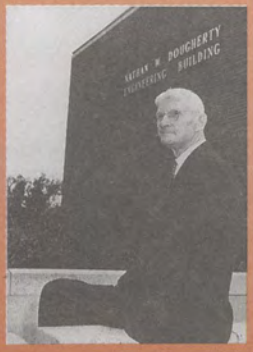
An interview with Vol wide receiver Marcus Nash.

ROB HARDIN — 4



INSIDE:

6 Vols stave off late Bruin rally in 30-24 win over UCLA.
VOLUNTEERS MAGAZINE STAFF



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A look at the Nathan Dougherty Society.
STEVE SAMS

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From the Editor

There was a time the Vol season started the last Saturday in September and not before, in some years against Auburn, others against Mississippi State. That's the way it was up until 1963 when the season opener moved back into September and, over time, moved into August, just like it has the past two seasons.

For instance, the Vols played UCLA in 1967, 30 years ago, on Sept. 16, then followed that up five years later in 1972, Sept. 9, to be exact, when the Vol game against Georgia Tech at Grant Field in Atlanta was a 4 p.m. kickoff sandwiched between ABC's coverage of the Munich Olympics.

That was the earliest start in Vol history and lasted until 1980 when the Vols and Georgia squared off at Neyland Stadium on Sept. 6, the night Herschel Walker made his collegiate debut.

The Vols were regulars on the first Saturday in September until 1985, when they squared off against UCLA on Sept. 14 in another ABC game.

The Vols played their first of four August contests in 1987 when they squared off against Iowa in the Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J. No one calculated how far East Rutherford was from Knoxville and Iowa City, but there were the Vols and Hawkeyes in August at the Meadowlands. On national TV, mind you.

The 1990 season saw the Vols and Colorado square off at Anaheim Stadium on Aug. 26 in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic. It was one of the few times the Vols have played on a baseball field configured for football. (Can you name other times the Vols have played on baseball fields turned gridirons? There was a time the Vols played back-to-back games on baseball/football fields. Do you know when?) The game was indeed a classic as Andy Kelly led the Vols back time after time and the game ended 31-31. Alvin Harper and Carl Pickens made the clutch catches, Harper's on the west side right at the pitcher's mound near the 20 yard line and Pickens TD grab came on a dive right near first base.

The Vols kicked off the 1996 season with a contest against UNLV on Aug. 31 at Neyland Stadium and a crowd of 106,212 was in attendance for all the festivities. It marked the 75th anniversary of Shields-Watkins Field and gave us all pause to consider what had happened since that fateful day in 1921.

Gone are those days when the Vols opened up in late September and played 10 weeks in a row, ending in late November. The 11-game schedule, television and open dates changed all that for good.

Regardless, Vol fans still make the trek to wherever the Vols play in record numbers, whether in Anaheim, East Rutherford, Knoxville or any other venue with a stadium and a 120-yard field.

A final word. There's something about leaving a hotel in Anaheim on the way to the stadium and hearing a pep band playing the "Spirit of the Hill." Three thousand or so miles away from home, that's still one of our favorite songs.

— Tom Mattingly

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A Look At The Vols...
"Stepping Out of the Shadows"

It is no wonder Tennessee is known as Wide Receiver U. The names that have dotted the rosters at Tennessee have included Stanley Morgan, Carl Pickens, Anthony Miller, Alvin Harper, Tim McGee, Willie Gault, Anthony Hancock, Richmond Flowers, Joey Kent, Lenny Taylor, and Cory Fleming, and all have gone on to play in the National Football League.

Some have distinguished themselves as among the best in the NFL such as Morgan who enjoyed a 14-year career, Gault, who played on the Super Bowl XX champion Chicago Bears, and Harper, who has two Super Bowl rings in his jewelry box. Pickens has been a two-time Pro Bowl selection and hauled in 100 passes for 1180 yards last season for the Cincinnati Bengals. Kent is in his first year with the Tennessee Oilers after leaving Tennessee with seven receiving records, including career yards (2814), yards in a season (1080), career receptions (183), and receptions in a season (69).

Next in line to join that list of distinguished wide receivers appears to be Marcus Nash.

Nash, a senior from Tulsa, Okla., entered this season with 101 career receptions placing him in a tie for ninth with Richmond Flowers (66-68) and 1277 yards, a figure which also places him ninth on the UT career receiving charts. He is well within reach of moving into the number two slot in career receptions as he only trails Thomas Woods, who currently sits in the number two spot, by 23 catches.

His UT career has been perhaps overshadowed by the record-breaking performances of Kent and quarterback Peyton Manning, but Manning believes Nash has what it takes to step out of the shadows and into the limelight.

"Marcus has played great the last few years," Manning said. "He's just been in that position where it is hard to shine. He's always been in there with the linebackers and makes these great catches, and then they are banging on him. He's really been unselfish playing that role.

"This year he'll have the kind of year he's been waiting to have. He has been real patient in waiting. Marcus will be a number one pick. I think he's that good of a receiver."

Nash does not really see himself stepping into the limelight, but he does expect big things from himself.

"I really don't look at it as being 'the guy,' but the guy who has the most experience," he said. "I am thinking of it as being the older guy and setting an example for the younger guys and making the plays when nobody else is making plays. But I have worked hard, and I have mentally prepared myself to have a big year. I want to step up and do more things with the ball.

"The position I played last year was to open other receivers

Marcus Nash works hard to get open in the secondary.

up. If I didn't run the right route, the other receivers could not get open. I do not believe I am the go-to guy, but the older guy."

Nash will have a capable receiving corps by his side to help him catch Manning's passes. The talented group includes Peerless Price, Jeremaine Copeland, Andy McCullough and Benjie Shuler, and they will all be a part of the receiving rotation. Nash will be the leader of this group and is a responsibility he readily accepts.

"Being a leader is a role I have whether I want it or not," he said, "but all seniors have to step up and provide some sort of leadership. I want to provide as much leadership as I can. I am not a real vocal guy, but I will be leading by example."

"This is my last season and I have progressed every season," he said. "My goal is to play every game 100 percent, do everything right, catch every ball, make every read, and do things after the catch. I think I am on top of my game and I want to play that way."

Nash is not concerned with individual success, but with the team's. He knows, though, that his individual success will parlay into success for the team.

"If I do things that help me individually, it will help the team," he said. "If I go 100 percent every play, I can make the block to spring the running back or make the catch on third and long. I want the ball and if I make the plays, it will help the team. My success will go hand in hand with the team's success."

"I REALLY DON'T LOOK AT IT AS BEING 'THE GUY,' BUT THE GUY WHO HAS THE MOST EXPERIENCE. I AM THINKING OF IT AS BEING THE OLDER GUY AND SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR THE YOUNGER GUYS AND MAKING THE PLAYS WHEN NOBODY ELSE IS MAKING PLAYS. BUT I HAVE WORKED HARD, AND I HAVE MENTALLY PREPARED MYSELF TO HAVE A BIG YEAR. I WANT TO STEP UP AND DO MORE THINGS WITH THE BALL."

— MARCUS NASH

Price was injured during the Orange and White game in the spring and was not expected to have recovered this quickly, but he played in the opening game against Texas Tech. Having Price back on the field will only help the Vol offense.

"Without Peerless, we don't have that really deep threat," Nash said. "Andy is a great replacement, but Peerless is the fastest guy in the receiving corps. Other teams know Peerless and they have to respect him."

While Price is getting back into game form, Nash believes he is on top of his game.

Nash's individual success will find him in the Tennessee record books alongside the Gaults, Pickens, Kents and others, but that is not how he wants to be remembered.

"I want to be the best receiver I can be and the best person I can be," he said. "If the records come along also, they do. It is nice to be thought of with those guys, but I do not really think about it. I want to be respected by my coaches, teammates and opposition. That will make me satisfied."

Part of what has helped Nash improve is playing with some of nation's best collegiate athletes. Every day in practice he catches passes from Manning and plays against the SEC's top defense.

"Playing with Peyton and Joey helped me learn how to mature, and how to work to get better," he said "I learned how to practice, how to be responsible and be accountable for my actions."

And for going up against the Big Orange defense, he noted that, "You hate the defense in practice, but you love them in a game," he said. "We get after each other in practice, but come gameday, you are glad these guys are on your team."

Vol fans are glad Marcus Nash is on their team as they dream of him slicing through opposing secondaries like the proverbial hot knife through butter. These are the great dreams Vol fans hope to see more of in 1997.

— Rob Hardin

VOLS HOLD ON FOR WEST COAST WIN!

Tailback Mark Levine carried eight times for 43 yards leading the Vol ground effort. Game photos by Michael Patrick/Knoxville News-Sentinel.

(See Fulmer File, p. 8)

PASADENA, Calif., Sept. 6, 1997 — It was an 1-2 punch and a last stand that preserved a 30-24 win for Tennessee over UCLA Saturday in front of 62,619 fans, about 10,000 of whom were wearing the Orange and White.

The 1-2 punch was No. 1 Leonard Little stripping the ball from UCLA's Skip Hicks, and No. 2 Fred White recovering the fumble to stop a UCLA drive that had penetrated deep into Tennessee territory. This play came with 2:04 left the game with Tennessee holding a six-point lead.

"That was probably the biggest play of the game," Little said. "We played an awful second half, but we will take the win any day."

The final stand came on UCLA's next possession of the game. The Bruins had taken over possession of the ball at its 48-yard line with 1:38 left in the game.

Quarterback Cade McNown, who finished the game 27-43 for 400 yards, connected with tight end Mike Grieb to move the ball to the UT 27. Hicks carried the ball to the 22, and then on second down, picked up two yards to the 20 before going out of bounds.

Facing a third-and-three, the Big Orange defense rose to the occasion. Hicks again got the call, but Darwin Walker stopped him for no gain forcing a fourth down. With no timeouts remaining, UCLA was forced to go with a hurry-up offense. McNown rolled to his right and over-threw his intended receiver who was being covered by Gerald Griffin.

The Vols then ran out the clock for their second win at the Rose Bowl.

With the script of the first half in hand, it didn't seem that the Bruins would be in striking distance of the Vols late in the game. The offense had trouble finding a rhythm against a stubborn Bruin team, but the defense was certainly ready to play. The Vol defenders were responsible for putting the game's first nine points on the board.

"IT WAS A PRESENT. WE HAD THE BLITZ ON AND LEONARD HAD MCNOWN, AND I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO GO DOWN. HE THREW IT UP, I WAS THERE TO GRAB IT, AND I WAS ABLE TO TAKE IT THE OTHER WAY FOR A SCORE."

VOL SAFETY CORY GAINES ON HIS INTERCEPTION

It started after the Bruins took over after a missed field goal. Two penalties backed UCLA up to its own five. McNown dropped back into his endzone and was pressured by Corey Terry. McNown eluded Terry, but Little was there to wrap him up in the endzone for the safety. Little's sack gave him 20.5 for his career, which ties him for third with Todd Kelly (89-92) on the UT career list.

Little then played a pivotal role in the Vols' next score.

McNown was again dropping back to pass, but Little came free on the blitz and had McNown in his grasp. While falling to the ground, McNown flipped a pass over the oncoming rush, and Cory Gaines was there to pluck the ball out of the air. Fifty-seven yards later, Gaines found himself in the endzone. After the Jeff Hall extra point, the Vols held a 9-0 lead with 3:05 left in the first quarter.

"It was a present," Gaines said. "We had the blitz on and Leonard had McNown, and I thought he was going to go down. He threw it up, I was there to grab it, and I was able to take it the other way for a score."

In the second quarter, the Vol

offense got into the scoring mode.

Starting at their own 22, Peyton Manning got the Vol offense in gear. He moved the Vols down the field hitting five of five passes during the drive. Completions to Peerless Price and Andy McCullough netted 13 yards each. The final completion was hauled in by Jeremaine Copeland, who had five catches for 88 yards, on a slant pattern. Copeland broke free from a would-be tackler and then scampered into the end zone to cap the 24-yard scoring play. Copeland then caught a Manning pass for the two-point conversion which gave the Vols a 17-0 lead with 9:35 left in the half.

On the Vols' next possession, Manning, who finished the game completing 28 of 49 passes for 341 yards, had the offense clicking again.

The Vols moved the ball from their own 23 down to the UCLA 39 in seven plays. The big blows were a 13-yard reception by Mark Levine, a 13-yard run by Phillip Crosby and a 14-yard catch by Marcus Nash which was one of his eight receptions for 117 yards. On the eighth play of the drive, Manning dropped back, avoided a pass rusher and hit Nash on a post pattern for a 39-yard score. The score: Good Guys 24, UCLA 0, with 4:07 left on the clock.

The Vols appeared to by driving for another score right before halftime. Tennessee had moved the inside the UCLA 20-yard line. Manning then floated a pass out in the left flat where UCLA's Larry Atkins stepped in front of the receiver and returned it nearly the length of the field to the Vols' five. A clipping penalty however, moved the ball back to Tennessee's 46. A screen pass from McNown to Hicks moved the Bruins into field goal range, and Chris Sailer connected on a 44-yarder as the half ended.

After the Vol offense failed to put a drive together early in the third and lost a fumble, UCLA took its first possession of the half and drove to the Vols' 10. The Vol defense held, and the Bruins settled for Sailer's second field goal of the game.

Tennessee answered on its next drive with a nine-play, 50-yard drive capped off by a 26-yard field goal from Hall.

After several changes in possession, UCLA began to drive goalward again. The drive started at the Bruin one, after punter David Leaverton pinned them in the shadow of their own endzone.

But a 15-yard completion from NcNown, on third down and nine from the UCLA two, to Jim McElroy gave the Bruins some breathing room. He then found Craig Walendy for a 26-yard gain. McElroy then got behind the Vol secondary for a 50-yard reception. Hicks followed that up with a seven-yard run into the endzone. The Bruins were down 27-13 with 14:16 left in the game.

Things got worse for the Vols. On their next possession, Leaverton was again summoned for punting duties. As he was trying to call timeout, the ball sailed past him, and he alertly forced the ball out of the back of the endzone, giving the Bruins two points instead of six.

After the free kick, the Bruins were able to hit the big play for another score. After a sack, McNown hit Hicks on a screen pass, and Hicks was able to knife through the Tennessee defense for a 50-yard scoring play to pull the Bruins to 27-21.

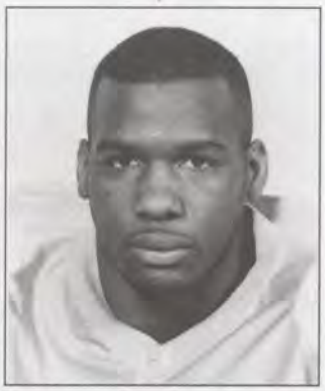
UCLA capitalized on its next possession as well. A poor punt gave them possession inside the Tennessee 40-yard line. The Vol defense didn't break though, and Sailer was forced to kick his third field goal of the game. This one was a 23-yarder.

The Vol offense finally found some life on its next possession. Facing a third-and-long situation, Manning hit Copeland for a 27-yard gain to move the ball out near midfield.

"Basically that play was a different route, but we had a blitz read, and I just ran straight down the field," Copeland said. "Peyton lofted the ball right in my hands. That was a big play for us."

A defensive holding penalty and personal foul moved the ball down to field goal range for Tennessee. Hall's 36-yard field goal gave the Vols a 30-24 lead and set up the defensive heroics late in the game.

—VOLUNTEERS MAGAZINE STAFF



Benjie Shuler (left) had three receptions for 39 yards, and Fred White (right) recovered a fumble, one of three turnovers forced by the Vols.

Tennessee Statistics vs. UCLA

Team Statistics	Tenn.	UCLA
First Downs	27	21
Rushing	9	4
Passing	15	16
Penalty	3	1
Rushing Attempts	33	30
Yards Gained	142	96
Yards Lost	38	51
Net Yards Rushing	104	45
Net Yards Passing	341	400
Passes Attempted	49	43
Passes Completed	28	27
Had Intercepted	1	2
Total Offensive Plays	61	73
Total Net Yards	445	445
Average Gain	7.3	6.1
Fumbles-Lost	5-2	3-1
Penalties No-Yards	7-51	10-75
Punts-Average	5-39.2	6-40.0
Punt Returns-Yards	3-24	1-2
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-23	2-39
Int. Returns-Yards	1-57	1-65
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Time of Possession	30:42	29:18
Third Down Conversions	7-16	5-14
Fourth Down Conversions	0-1	0-1
Sacks By-Yards	7-36	1-8

TENNESSEE	9	15	3	3—30
UCLA	0	3	3	18—24

1-UT: Safety, McNown sacked by Little.
Drive: 8:28 on clock.
1-UT: Gaines, interception return 57. Hall kick.
Drive: 3:05 on clock.
2-UT: Copeland, pass from Manning 24. Copeland pass from Manning.
Drive: 78 yards, 6 plays, 2:57 possession, 9:35 on clock.
2-UT: Nash, pass from Manning 39. Hall kick.
Drive: 77 yards, 8 plays, 3:48 possession, 4:07 on clock.
2-UCLA: Sailer, field goal 44.
Drive: 19 yards, 6 plays, :39 possession, :00 on clock.
3-UCLA: Sailor, field goal 27.
Drive: 48 yards, 8 plays, 2:40 possession, 10:22 on clock.
3-UT: Hall, field goal 26.
Drive: 50 yards, 9 plays, 2:51 possession, 7:31 on clock.
4-UCLA: Hicks, run 7. Sailer kick.
Drive: 99 yards, 6 plays, 1:29 possession, 14:16 on clock.
4-UCLA: Safety, Leaverton runs out of end zone.
Drive: 12:35 on clock.
4-UCLA: Hicks, pass from McNown 50. kick failed.
Drive: 57 yards, 5 plays, 2:06 possession, 10:29 on clock.
4-UCLA: Sailer, field goal 23.
Drive: 17 yards, 7 plays, 2:25 possession, 7:33 on clock.
4-UT: Hall, field goal 36.
Drive: 61 yards, 11 plays, 2:51 possession, 4:42 on clock.

Rushing	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Levine	8	47	4	43	0	29
Crosby	5	32	0	32	0	13
Lewis	4	27	0	27	0	14
Bryson	9	22	2	20	0	7
Manning	6	14	10	4	0	9
Team	1	0	22	-22	0	-22

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
Manning	49	28	1	341	2	39

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Nash	8	117	1	39
Copeland	5	88	1	27
P. Price	4	50	0	14
Bryson	3	42	0	25
Shuler	3	39	0	18
Levine	3	-13	0	5
McCullough	1	13	0	13
Lewis	1	5	0	5

Field Goals	Attempt	Made	Long
Hall	3	2	36

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Leaverton	5	196	39.2	71

All Returns	Punts No.	Yds.	LP	Kickoffs No.	Yds.	LP	Int. No.	Yds.	LP
Copeland	2	25	16						
Fair	1	-1	-1						
Levine				1	23	23			
Gaines							1	57	57

Fulmer File...

1997 UCLA GAME

Before Leonard Little leaves Tennessee, we need to make a mold of his right hand, cast it in gold and put it on display in our Hall of Fame Exhibit in the football complex.

As far as I'm concerned, Leonard's hand was immortalized the moment he reached from behind to strip the ball from the arms of UCLA's Skip Hicks in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game at the Rose Bowl.

Of course, that's the kind of play that All-Americas make, the kind of play you come to expect of a Leonard Little. It's what separates the Leonard Littles of the world from the rest of the people.

With the game on the line, with UCLA driving toward a touchdown that would put the Bruins in the lead as time was running out, Little got a hand on Hicks, who was powering his way downfield on a 13-yard pass completion. It looked almost rehearsed. Leonard reached in, loosened the ball from Hicks' grasp and pulled it free as the great UCLA tailback was being hit by other Vols. Fred White pounced on the fumble, and the day was saved for the Volunteers.

Without Little's strip and White's subsequent recovery, there might not have been any singing in the dressing room after the game. Our dressing room, anyway. Instead, there might have been some pretty jubilant crooning down the hall, in the Bruin locker room.

When the squad came off the field after the game, I told our players to hold their heads high. To botch up the kicking game and hand UCLA the ball as often as we did, we ought to feel good to come home from California with a victory. It is not very often you make the mistakes we did and live to talk about it.

And give credit to Bob Toledo, his staff and the UCLA players. Year after year, the Bruins are a quality program with the tradition and the pride that go with it. In quarterback Cade McNown, tailback Skip Hicks, excellent receivers, and a front line that looks like a forest of California redwoods, UCLA has an exceptionally strong offense. Coach Toledo had them well prepared to find weaknesses in our defense and exploit them.

One of the benefits of the game is that UCLA let us know we are going to need to do a better job against the screen pass. We'll work on that and plenty of other things that obviously need improvement.

A case in point is our punting, where David Leaverton is struggling. I don't know what it's going to take. I fussed with David and I have patted him on the back. He'll rocket a 71-yarder, as he did Saturday, and then come back with a 17-yarder, which he also did Saturday. I still believe David can do the job, or I wouldn't have kept putting him out there the way I did. He has worlds of natural ability.

Even though we were hanging on precariously in the first period, there were three key developments in the closing minutes that allowed us to win the game: 1. holding UCLA to a field goal after Leaverton's 17-yard punt when the score was 27-21; 2. our drive to get a field goal on our next possession, forcing UCLA to go for a touchdown in order to win, and 3. Little's strip of Hicks to stave off the rallying Bruins.

The defense again gave us a huge lift early. Our offense wasn't accomplishing much in the first quarter, but a safety and Cory Gaines' interception return for a touchdown staked us to a 9-0 lead. It probably doesn't surprise you that it was Leonard Little who flattened McNown as he was getting off the pass that Gaines picked off.

A bunch of banged-up Vols give testimony to the type of bruising game we experienced against UCLA. We're going to go light the first three days of the open date week and hope to get as many players healthy as we can before we bear down on our preparation for Florida.

We want to give you, the great Tennessee fans, some rest too, because we need everybody, including you, at full strength when we go to Gainesville. Everybody needs to go full throttle against the reigning national champions.

—Phillip Fulmer

> ***"When the squad came off the field after the game, I told our players to hold their heads high. To botch up the kicking game and hand UCLA the ball as often as we did, we ought to feel good to come home from California with a victory. It is not very often you make the mistakes we did and live to talk about it."***
>
> ***—Phillip Fulmer***

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Tennessee Tradition...

BEN BYRD ON THE VOLS... ON THE VOLS AND FLORIDA

When one football team loses to another for a few years in a row, things can get a little out of focus. That's especially true, I think, if losing to this one rival each year tends to ruin otherwise prosperous seasons. That case in point is, of course, Tennessee and its current nemesis, Florida.

I have never much believed in jinxes in competitive sports. Those are things of the mind, and the athlete in the arena has little or no time to dwell on them. I've seen a lot of Vol winning streaks and losing seasons go by over the years, but have never attached any reason to them other than the obvious ones of superior manpower or the capriciousness of fate.

I look at the Vol-Gator deal the same way. After all, it is a little bitty streak as far as those things go, only four years. It would get lost in the 11-game skid the Vols once experienced at the hands of Alabama, and even that came to a merciful end.

In most of those 11 games with Alabama, the Vols had very little chance to win. In at least a couple of games in the Florida string, they have had very good chances to win. So I don't think we're looking at a situation where superior manpower gives Florida a measurable advantage, and I doubt very much if we see this losing skid come anywhere close to the Alabama string of the 1970s and early 1980s.

In these situations, the coach on the triumphant side seems to take on mystic powers in the view of the long-suffering fans on the losing side. Steve Spurrier has become something of an evil genius to some Vol boosters. The Gator skipper is neither evil nor a genius, but he seems to feed the myth at times, and, to tell the truth, I don't blame him. Getting under the skin of the opponent is an old and effective psychological ploy. Ray Mears of UT basketball fame used it as skillfully as any coach I have ever seen.

Anyway, the point is that Spurrier's quite vulnerable, like all the rest of us, and the monster he has created at Gainesville is not really a monster, but just an awfully good football team that always seems to be at its best in the big games. To point up this human fallibility, let's go back to the very first time Spurrier ever put his Florida team up against the Big Orange.

It was Oct. 13, 1990. John Majors' Vols were the incumbent SEC champions, and the young Gators were making some waves under their new coach, so there was quite a bit of anticipation on both sides of the ball. An overflow crowd of 96,874 was on hand at Neyland Stadium and for a half they were treated to the expected dogfight. It was 7-3, Tennessee, at the intermission and neither team had really been able to gain a firm upper hand.

With the start of the second half, the blitzkrieg was on. Vol defensive back Dale Carter, fresh off junior college fields, returned the kickoff 91 yards for a touchdown. That popped the first olive out of the bottle.

Tony Thompson, the little halfback who had stepped in to fill the vacancy left by the injured Chuck Webb, broke loose on a touchdown run. Freshman linebacker Reggie Ingram intercepted a pass for another TD. The Vols kept the surge going with a gadget play, tight end Von Reeves passing off a reverse to Carl Pickens for a 47-yard score. The Vols had put up 28 points on the scoreboard in a whirlwind third quarter to take command by 35-3. In the final stanza, they added a field goal by Greg Burke and a short TD run by Sterling Henton to wind up one of the most productive halves of football any Tennessee team has ever played against a mainline foe. It wound up Tennessee 45, Florida 3.

And, of course, there was another rousing Vol win over the Gators two years later, 31-14. That was the first year of the new two-division SEC race, and it was losses to other teams, not Florida, which cost the Vols the Eastern Division title that year.

So, perhaps this 1997 Tennessee team will be able to grab hold of the same kind of lightning their predecessors of 1990 and 1992 did and end this Florida spell. And then we can all talk about something else for a change.

Former Vol

Chris White (1983-85)

Cleveland, Tennessee's, Chris White lettered for the Vols in the mid-1980s and had a Cinderella senior season as the Vols won the SEC and defeated Miami 35-7 in the 1986 Sugar Bowl.

In that 1985 season, White had nine interceptions for 168 yards and one score. He also had a blocked punt against Mississippi. He is tied for second in season pass interceptions behind only Bobby Majors (1970), who had 10. He joins J.W. Sherrill (1949), Tim Priest (1970) and Bill Young (1968) on that all-time list.

He was an All-America and All-SEC selection in 1985. He is tied with six other Vols with three interceptions in a single game with three against UCLA. He was also the NCAA statistical leader in interceptions in 1985.

He now lives in Ocoee down in Polk County and runs Horn's Creek Cabins. He and his wife, Elena, have a son, Alexander Christopher White, age 1.

Chris White was an All-America selection during a storybook senior season.

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This Week In Big Orange Country

1997 SOCCER SEASON PREVIEW

A good combination of experience, youth and depth will serve as key components for head coach Charlie MacCabe's second Lady Vol soccer team which features 17 returning letterwinners, including every starter, along with eight talented newcomers.

The newcomer to keep an eye on is highly-touted freshman Laura Lauter. After knocking in a state-record 68 goals and leading Farragut High School to a state runner-up finish as a senior, the local standout appears primed to add much-needed offensive firepower. The UT offense will also be enhanced by the arrival of sophomore transfer Shayna Teutsch, who tied for the team lead in scoring at Kansas last year while starting all 18 matches.

Tennessee will rely heavily on senior midfielder Holly Kimble, who in her initial season proved to be a strong defender and a productive offensive force after starting all but one match and notching 14 points.

A pair of new Lady Vol midfielders Kelly Berrall and Kendyl Michner will aid the squad with their workhorse efforts. Berrall enters as a freshman from Roswell, Ga., while Michner, one of four Lady Vols from Germantown, arrives as a sophomore transfer from Kansas after starting every game of her freshman year.

Four returnees will add to the fight for starting roles, including Brooke Sweeney, who will see action both as a midfielder and forward, and Nashville native and sophomore Whitney Rayburn, who has enormous potential and is particularly effective at creating goal-scoring chances. Junior Sharon Kelly, who started 15 games last season and former walk-on Bethany Himel, an offensive-minded senior from Germantown, also work into the mix.

MacCabe hopes that junior Melissa Majcher can re-establish her presence after recovering from a torn anterior cruciate ligament sustained in the squad's first-ever match. Three others, freshman Rachael Newkirk, who had a successful high school career in Roswell, Ga., and should see time as a central midfielder, along with senior Jodie Hanlon and sophomore Stacey Longino, add depth to the midfield corps.

Junior sweeper and 1996 team MVP Kassie Kees leads an experienced group of backs, including Tennessee's top five defenders from last season. As one of only two Lady Vols to start all 20 games, the Brentwood native appears ready to step up as one of the SEC's premier defenders. Another durable force, Natalie Balash, one of last season's co-captains, anchored the back line by starting 19 matches and tallying six points.

A stellar trio of sophomore marking backs will be called upon to shut down opponents' front-runners. Anna Dempsey, a reliable one-on-one defender who improved steadily throughout 1996, and Heather Handel, Tennessee's most consistent player who started every game, both hail from Germantown. The third, Heather Redecker, is a fierce competitor who thrives on the individual battle and is expected to draw the toughest assignment every game.

Look for the freshman duo of Tori Beeler and Lisa Tipton to have an immediate impact as well. A four-year standout at Bearden High School, Beeler was her team's most outstanding midfielder for three straight years and led the team to the district title each season. Also from Knoxville, Tipton is a relentless competitor who earned first-team all-state honors her final season at The Webb School. The final newcomer, Anne Glees, is a junior transfer from Georgia State where she played two years, including one under UT assistant coach Michelle Bertocchi.

— Brad Laux

The Lady Vol soccer team led by Coach Charlie MacCabe looks to make the 1997 season a memorable one.

Harrier coach George Watts will lead his charges into battle on Sept. 19 in Bloomington, Ind.

Youthful Vols Break Away Toward SEC Championship

The University of Tennessee cross country team opens the season with two goals in mind -- a high SEC finish and a NCAA qualifying team. Still, the road to these goals may grow long due to the youth of the Vol harriers.

With one District crown and two top-three SEC finishes under his belt, third-year head coach George Watts is optimistic when it comes to this year's squad.

Despite heavy losses in Brandon Ally, 1996 All-SEC runner Doug Bockenstette, 1996 NCAA qualifier Chris Brown and Jon DeWalt, Tennessee returns 1997 track All-Americas Doug Ellington, a junior, and senior Mike Moran, in addition to the senior leadership of Bob Dickie.

"With the youth of our squad, it will be a tremendous challenge to qualify the team for the NCAA championship," said Watts. "But with patience, the results could be very positive."

Though, this youth provides a great challenge, the maturity of several returning Vol runners will give the team its needed leadership.

"Doug is ready to take the next step in order to become an elite national caliber runner," said Coach Watts. "Bob and Mike are proven SEC performers and should have a major impact on this year's squad as well."

The 1997 schedule will once again be a demanding slate of events with five pre-championship races on tap which Coach Watts feels will adequately prepare his squad for post-season competition.

The schedule opens with a head-to-head, four-way event, against Indiana, Indiana State and Cincinnati in Bloomington, Ind., on Sept. 19.

Tennessee then travels to Birmingham, Ala., to compete in the Birmingham Invitational on Sept. 27, followed by an appearance at the Notre Dame Invitational on Oct. 3 in South Bend, Ind.

The final pre-championship stop for the Vols is in Greenville, S.C., on Oct. 11, where they face opponents in the Furman Invitational.

The 1997 SEC Championships, November 1, will be held in Columbia, S.C where the Gamecocks will play host to SEC's finest. District championship competition in 1997 moves to Birmingham, where the Vols will run for the second time on Nov. 15.

Finally, Furman University will play host to the NCAA Championships on Nov. 24.

—Chad King

Neyland Stadium Capacity Increased

Due to new regulations regarding handicapped seating, the University of Tennessee has moved the handicapped seating area from under the old North endzone to the recently new North Upper Deck. With the change, seats were added back in the old North endzone, giving the stadium a higher seating capacity. The change now brings the official seating capacity to 102,854, 310 more seats than last year.

Six Student-Athletes Graduate

Six present or former University of Tennessee student-athletes graduated at Thompson-Boling Arena on Friday, August 15. Among those who participated were Leonard Little, Tori Noel, Greg Johnson and Ryan Collins (football), Clarence Swearengen (basketball), and Aric Long (track).

If you received our last issue, then you might remember our article on the Vol gridiron graduates such as Little and Noel.

Little's graduation marks the first time that two Vol football captains have graduated prior to their senior season. Quarterback Peyton Manning went through graduation exercises in May.

1988 Diamond Vol Schedule Announced

Tennessee Athletic Director Doug Dickey announced the schedule for the 1998 Tennessee baseball team. The Vols, who finished 42-19 last season, reached the Midwest Regional, face another demanding schedule. Twenty-seven home dates dot the 58-game schedule, along with playing two in-season tournaments, The Disney Classic - Jan. 30-Feb. 1 and The Citadel Tournament - Feb. 13-15. When the Volunteers open the season at The Disney Classic in Orlando, Fla. against Duke, North Carolina State and Florida State, it will be the earliest the baseball Vols have ever opened a season. Also, the Volunteers play 18 of their first 23 games on the road.

Following is the 1998 Tennessee baseball schedule: Jan. 3-Feb. 1 The Disney Classic at Orlando, Fla. (Duke, North Carolina State and Florida State); Feb 12 at College of Charleston; Feb. 13-15 The Citadel Tournament at Charleston, S.C. (Old Dominion, The Citadel and Western Carolina); Feb. 20-22 at Mercer; Feb. 25 at Carson-Newman; Feb. 27-March 1 Morehead State; March 4 at East Tennessee State; Mar. 6-8 at Mississippi State; March 10-11 Austin Peay; Mar. 13-15 at South Carolina; Mar. 17-18 UNC Asheville; Mar. 20-22 Kentucky; Mar. 25 Carson-Newman; Mar. 27-29 Florida; Mar. 31 Tennessee Wesleyan; Apr. 1 East Tennessee State; Apr. 3-5 at Georgia; Apr. 7 at Tennessee Tech; Apr. 8 Middle Tennessee State; Apr. 10-12 at Alabama; Apr. 15 Tennessee Tech; Apr. 17-19 Arkansas; Apr. 22 Middle Tennessee State at Chattanooga; Apr. 24-26 Auburn; Apr. 28 Virginia Tech at Kingsport; May 1-3 at LSU; May 4 Georgia State; May 8-10 Vanderbilt; May 13-17 SEC Tournament at Birmingham, Ala.; May 21-24 NCAA Regionals; May 29-June 6 College World Series at Omaha, Neb.

Hard Court Time Changes

Since our last issue, some of the times for this year's basketball games have changed due to television. They include the Ole Miss game in Knoxville on Jan. 17, 6 p.m. (Fox SportSouth); South Carolina in Knoxville on Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. (Jefferson Pilot); and Arkansas in Knoxville on Feb. 14 at 12:30 p.m. (Jefferson Pilot).

Other TV games as of time of publication: South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. - 8 p.m. (Jefferson Pilot); Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. - 8 p.m. (Jefferson Pilot); Mississippi State at Starkville, Miss. - 9:30 p.m. (ESPN); and Georgia in Athens, Ga. - 4 p.m. (Jefferson Pilot).

Please make note of these changes. If any more game times change, we will let you know.

Rowing Signs Up New Assistant

Julio Viyella became Susannah Iacovino's top assistant when he was hired on Aug. 20 to serve as the coach of the novice team. Viyella came to UT after spending the past two years as the junior women's varsity coach at the Miami Rowing Club. A four-year member of the University of Miami rowing team, his boat won three state titles. He also competed in the EcoFest Regatta in Brazil, where his 8+ shell took a bronze medal.

Volleyball Adds Another Assistant

Sherry Dunbar completed the off-season volleyball coaching changes when she was hired July 17. A member of Ball State's "All-Decade" team after graduating in 1992, Dunbar is the Cardinals' all-time leader in blocks. Prior to arriving in Knoxville, Dunbar spent the past four years as an assistant coach at San Francisco. At UT, she will work with the middle blockers as well as handle travel and scouting and will assist with recruiting.

Knoxvillian Pavon To Join Golf Coaching Staff

Head coach Lori Brock added Knoxville resident Judy Pavon to her coaching staff as an assistant on Aug. 12. Pavon was an All-America for Alabama, where she graduated in 1989. She also earned three Academic All-America honors during her tenure in Tuscaloosa. Upon receiving her degree, she participated on the Futures Golf Tour, before joining the LPGA tour in 1991-92. She then returned to the Futures circuit for two more years, before taking a position as a teaching pro at Fairways and Greens.

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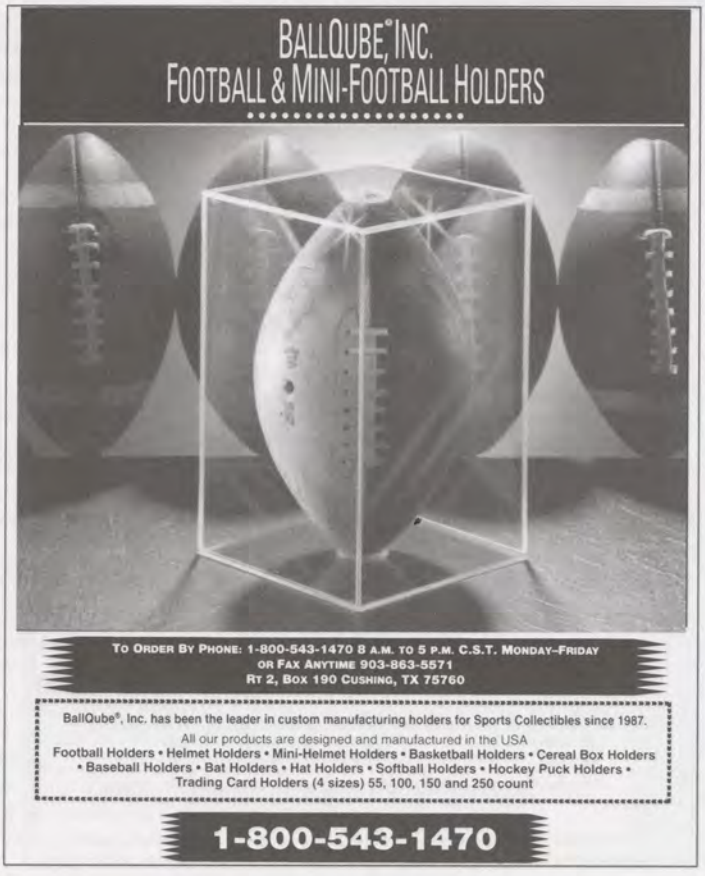
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Nathan Dougherty
March 23, 1886-May 18, 1977

A native of Hales Mill, Va., Nathan Dougherty, known to teammates and friends alike as "Big'un" or "Wash," was an All-Southern guard at The University of Tennessee in 1907-08 and captain of the 1909 Vol Squad. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1909 and earned two more degrees in the same field at Cornell in 1913-14.

He became faculty chairman of athletics in 1917, a position he held during his tenure with the University until he retired in 1956. He was named Dean of the College of Engineering in 1940 but did not cease his teaching load. He was a key figure in bringing Robert R. Neyland to the head coaching position at Tennessee, with the injunction to "even the score with Vanderbilt; do something about our terrible standing in the series."

He was instrumental in the formation of the Southeastern Conference. He served as secretary of the SEC from the time it was organized and was acting commissioner in 1947-48. He served on numerous national athletic committees and was a vice president and a member of the executive committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

In 1964, Dean Dougherty was honored by having the $1.9 million engineering building on the Hill named in his honor. In 1967, he was elected to the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame and, with Herman Hickman, became the first winner of the Robert R. Neyland Memorial Trophy. He is a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

The Nathan Dougherty Society Explained

Nathan Dougherty's vision of helping Tennessee student-athletes stretch beyond the ordinary has spanned the twentieth century. The University of Tennessee desires to extend his vision into the twenty-first century.

On August 29, 1997, the Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund recognized these persons whose commitments enable a rapid growth in the endowment for athletic scholarships.

These donors are considered Charter Members of the Nathan Dougherty Society, with all accordant privileges. On behalf of the student-athletes of the University of Tennessee, the VASF offers a most sincere "Thank You" to these special VOLUNTEERS.

Alumni Association Florida Away Game Reception

The University of Tennessee National Alumni Association is sponsoring a reception for all Vol fans before the Vols' football game against the Florida Gators at the Gainesville Holiday Inn located across the street from Ben Hill Griffin Stadium beginning at 12:30 p.m. A cash bar and refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Steve Catlett in the Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving at (423) 974-3011. Please note that all Florida game tickets have been sold at both schools' ticket office.

— Steve Sams

The Last Word...
A Couple of 99-Yard Drives

QUESTION: Name a stadium in which the Vols have had a 99-yard drive for a score from each end of the field. i.e. north to south and likewise south to north.

While you're thinking about it, we'll refresh your memory a bit. They didn't give the AT&T "Long Distance Award" in those days, but these two would have certainly qualified.

In 1971 and 1977, Tennessee went the length of the field, as far as you can go, 99 yards for scores, against Florida, from each direction on the venerated artificial turf of Florida Field.

The drives were in contrast, 99 yards in 10 plays from north to south in the 1971 contest, and 99 again in just three plays from south to north in the 1977 tilt.

In the 1971 contest, the game was tied 13-13 when Florida punted to Tennessee from the 50. The ball went out of bounds right at the flag at the northeast corner of the endzone and the officials ruled it Tennessee ball inside the 1, coming out. Tennessee head coach Bill Battle vehemently protested the spot and received what may have been the shortest unsportsmanlike conduct penalty ever.

The punt was 49 yards and, with the penalty, the Vols had it first-and-10 on the 1, the ball perhaps moving an inch or two. So nothing was really lost. It was still a long way down the field to the south endzone, which at the time, appeared to be in another area code.

Athens' Phil Pierce, the Vol quarterback that night, led the Vols out of the wilderness to the promised land, right down the field as nice as you please.

Phil carried for four yards, Haskel Stanback for seven and a first down at the 12. The Vols could see daylight. Curt Watson hit left guard for two. After an incompletion, Pierce found Emmon Love for 18 and a first down at the Tennessee 46 after a personal foul was tacked on.

Pierce carried for eight, seven and four, and, from the Gator 35, hit tight end Sonny Leach for 15 and a first down at the Gator 20. On the next play, Pierce found wideout Stan Trott open for the score and the score was 20-13, which, incidentally, was also the final score. "Pierce to Trott" didn't have the ring of "Scott to Trott" of a year earlier, but it was still seven points. Phil carried 18 times for 103 yards and was seven of 15 passing for 94 yards.

The 1977 drive took less time and fewer plays.

The Vols were backed up at their 1, south end, thanks to a Thomas Rowsey interception, but without the short distance penalty. Rowsey's interception of a Terry LeCount pass came when it appeared that the Gators were on the verge of widening a 17-10 lead.

In a series apparently designed to gain punting room for kicker Craig Colquitt, quarterback Jimmy Streater carried for no gain, then threw incomplete in the general direction of wide receiver Billy Arbo. Here came the third-and-10 play that made the Vol record books.

Tailback Kelsey Finch hit off right guard and suddenly found himself out in the wide open spaces with only a safety to beat. Finch made the 99-yard run, the last time that feat has been accomplished in Division I-A, and the Vols tied the game 17-17.

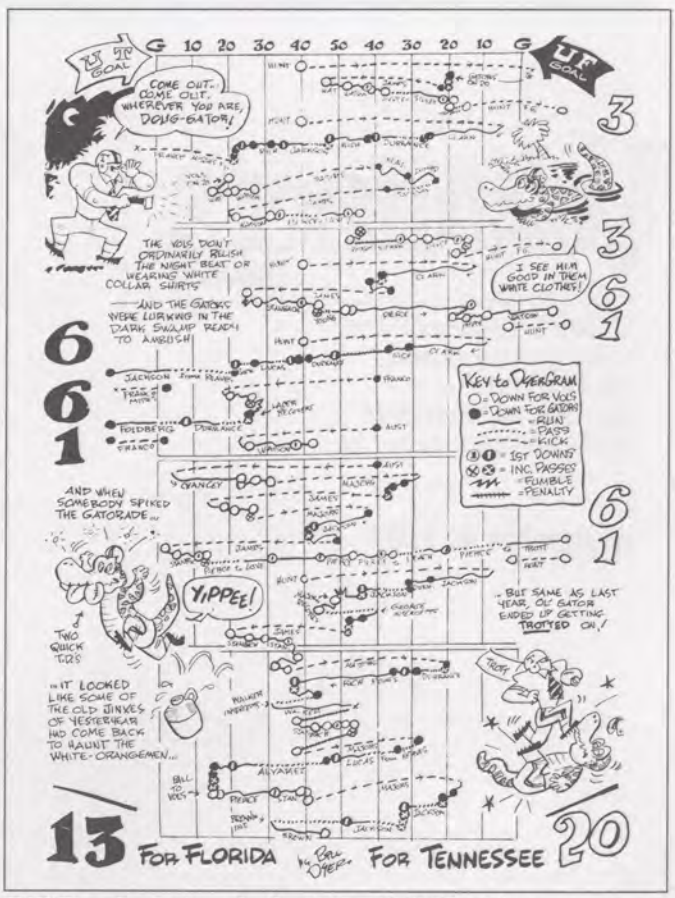
There is an interesting postscript to Finch's run. There was a man in the Florida stands who was imploring his heroes and was leading the assembled multitudes in a loud version of "Hold That Line." Rumor has it he was yelling "Block That Kick" by the time Finch reached the goal line.

Finch finished with 121 yards on six carries for his afternoon's work, but 99 yards of those have gone down in Vol history. The game also saw the emergence of Vol tight end Reggie Harper, the Trousdale County product who caught seven passes for 80 yards and one score. He finished his career with 98 catches for 1141 yards and seven scores.

By now you have probably figured out the answer to our question.

It all happened on Florida Field in 1971 and 1977. Can history repeat itself this season? Stay tuned.

—Tom Mattingly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AND THE GATORS WERE LURKING IN THE DARK SWAMP READY TO AMBUSH
I SEE HIM GOOD IN THEM WHITE CLOTHES!
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● = DOWN FOR GATORS
= RUN
= PASS
= KICK
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= PENALTY
AND WHEN SOMEBODY SPIKED THE GATORADE...
YIPPEE!
TWO QUICK TDS
...BUT SAME AS LAST YEAR, OLE GATOR ENDED UP GETTING TROTTED ON!
...IT LOOKED LIKE SOME OF THE OLD JINXES OF YESTERYEAR HAD COME BACK TO HAUNT THE WHITE-ORANGEMEN...
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FOR TENNESSEE 20

Bill Dyer's cartoon look at the 1971 Florida game, courtesy of the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

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